

merely counsels of perfection so long as the destinies of nations are in the hands of irresponsible autocrats. When selfish and capricious autocracies are replaced by self-governing institutions, a new system of relations between states will become possible. The only absolute security for peace would be a world republic, which he regrets that the nations will not accept. The second-best method is a federation of self-governing communities for the purpose of averting war. Here in 1795 is the Society of Nations without the name. The philosopher proceeds to offer some reasons for his great hope. Nature, he announces boldly, points us towards peace, for she makes harmony spring from discord, even against the will of man. She fills the earth with contiguous peoples, who gradually realize their common interests. The commercial spirit cannot coexist with war, and sooner or later it takes possession of every nation. But his faith in mankind is even greater than his faith in Nature or commerce. In noble words, which enshrine his political as well as his moral philosophy, he declares that man cannot get away from the idea of right. As Kant challenges Machiavelli, so Gladstone and Bismarck among nineteenth-century statesmen embody the rival philosophies in action. Vast and splendid as was the intellect of the Prussian Junker, the conception of human solidarity,* the vision of a new international order resting on a voluntary partnership of national units, was beyond his ken. The weakness of the realists is that they define reality too narrowly and think more of immediate than of ultimate returns. Bismarck was content to work for his country alone and was satisfied with its rapturous applause. In a recent book on his religion a German Professor exhibits the master-builder as a man of evangelical piety on the strength of some devotional works

which he read and underlined. The hero-
too far, for Bismarck kept his religion and his
watertight compartments. Certain issues, as
the beginning of his ministerial career, could
by blood and iron. There is no more familiar
reminiscences than the story of the
telegram, which by tendentious compression
to look like an insult to the French Ambassador,
produced the desired result of goading
Napoleon III to a
declaration of war. Europe to Bismarck, like
Italy to Metter-
nich, was a geographical expression and nothing
more.
The Iron Chancellor was the most consummate
practitioner